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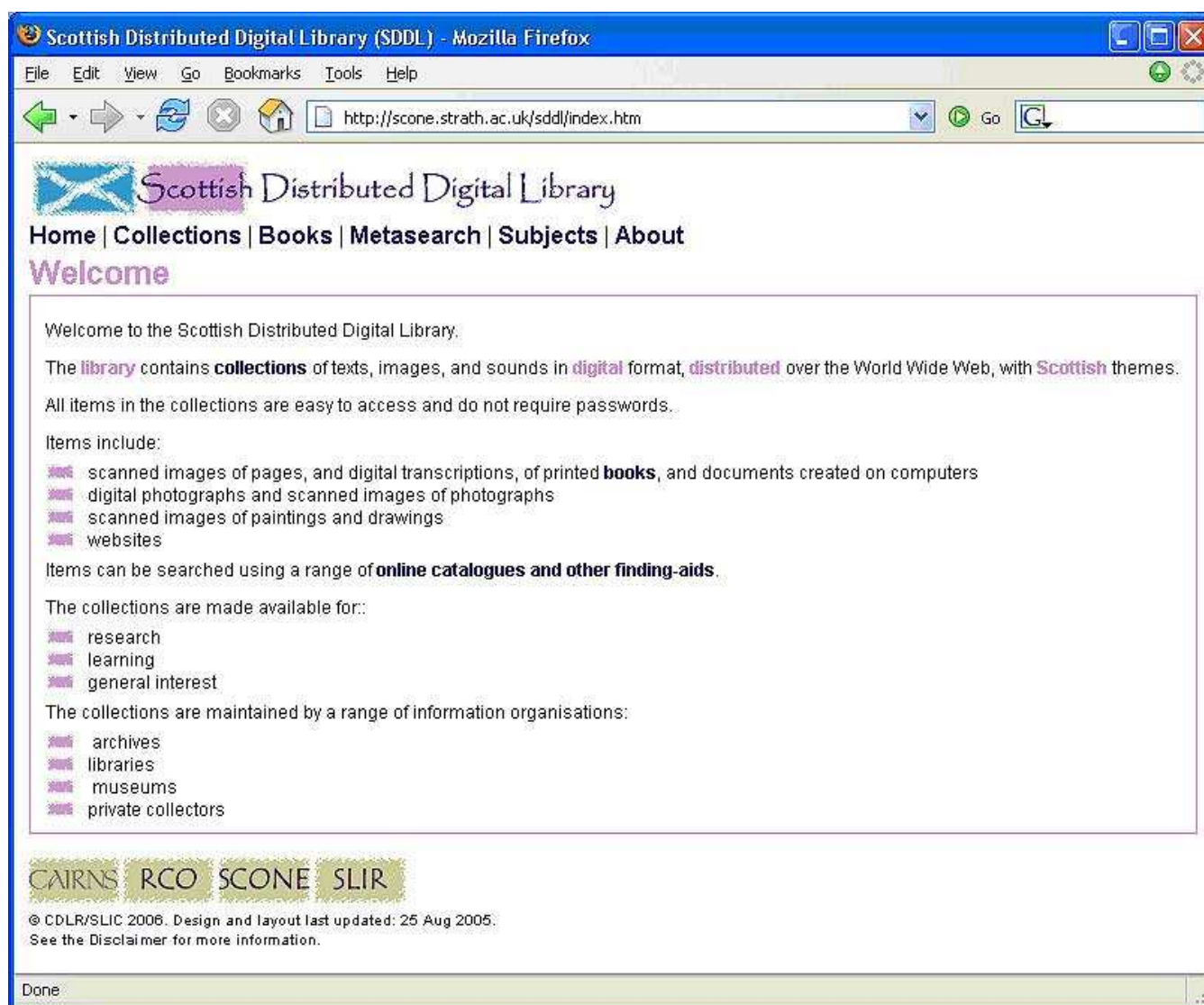
## The Scottish Distributed Digital Library

**Gordon Dunsire** tells WIDWISAWN about the recently launched Scottish Distributed Digital Library (SDDL) pilot service and notes how the various components of the Scottish Common Information Environment underpin the architecture of such a service

The [Scottish Distributed Digital Library](#) (SDDL) is a new pilot service using elements of the Scottish Common Information Environment. The service was launched without publicity at the beginning of 2006.

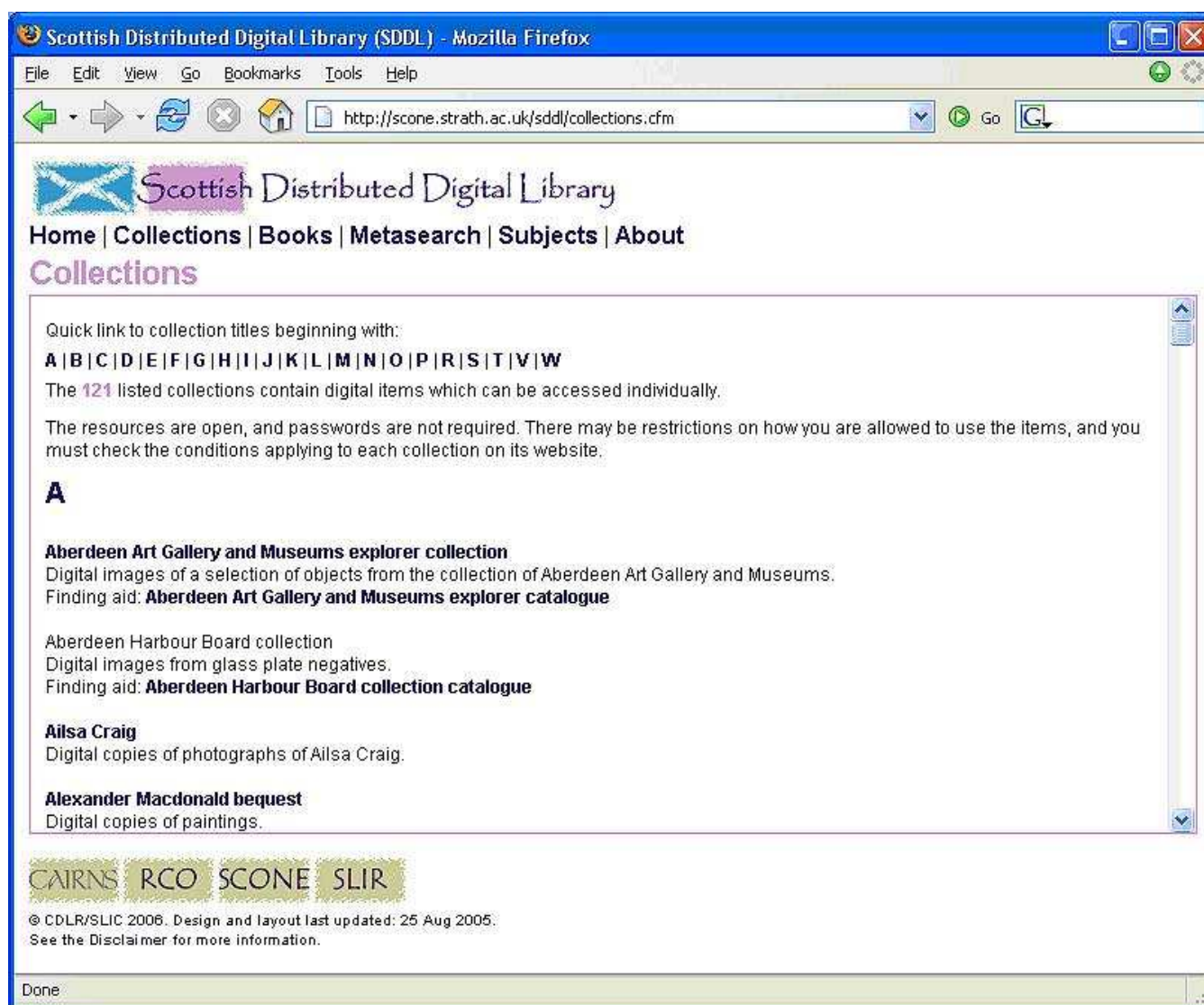
There is no specific definition of a digital library; the term has been used for services in which all metadata and resources are digital, or where the metadata is digital but the resources are a mix of digital and non-digital. The word "library" is also ambiguous, as many digital libraries contain resources from archives and museums.

SDDL currently adopts a "hard" definition. It contains only digital resources and digital metadata. Furthermore, the resources are openly accessible; no subscriptions or passwords are required to link to them.



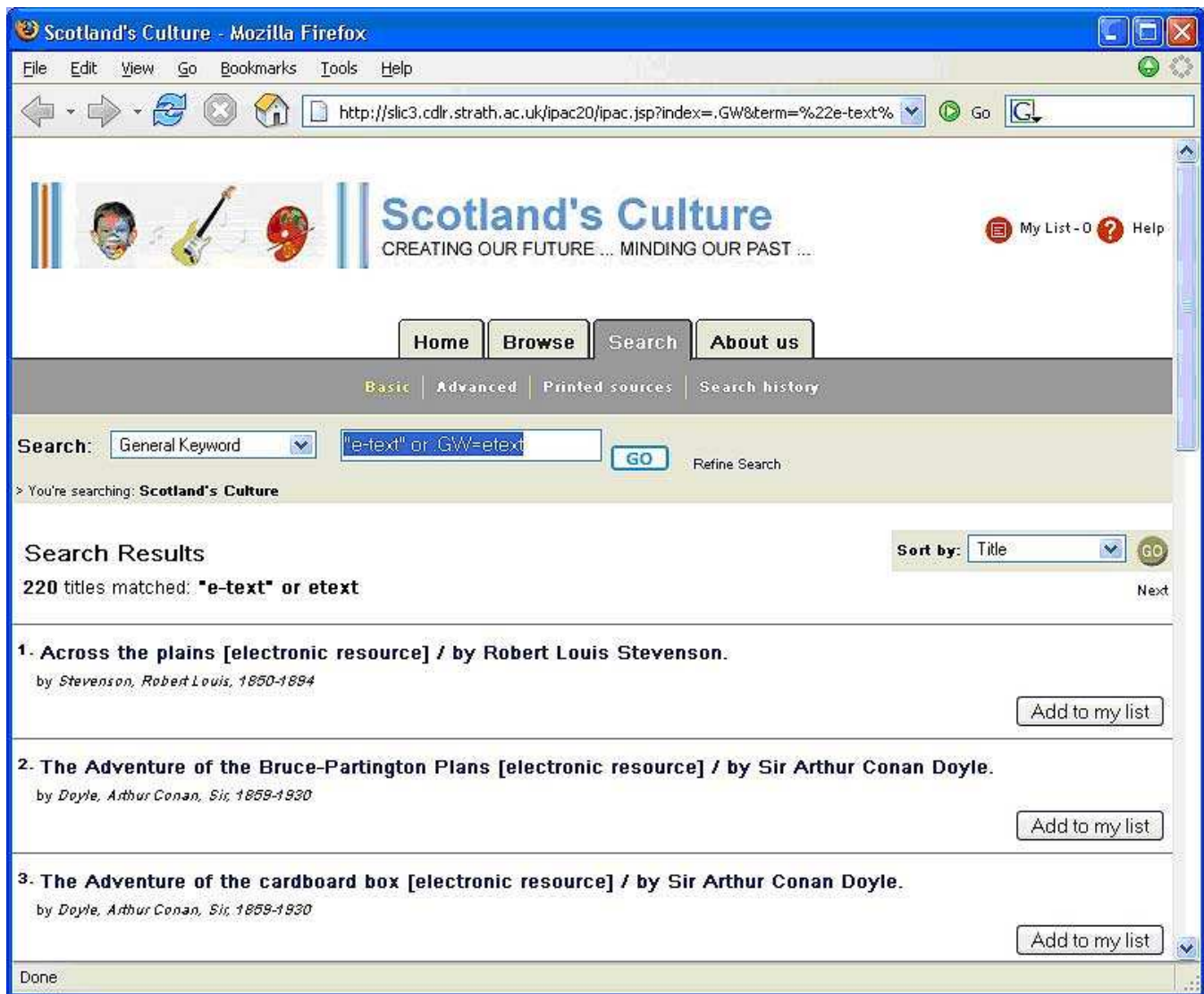
**Screenshot: The homepage of the Scottish Distributed Digital Library.**

SDDL incorporates collections of digital materials made available by archives, libraries and museums, and private groups and individuals. The service provides links to the collections and any associated finding-aids.



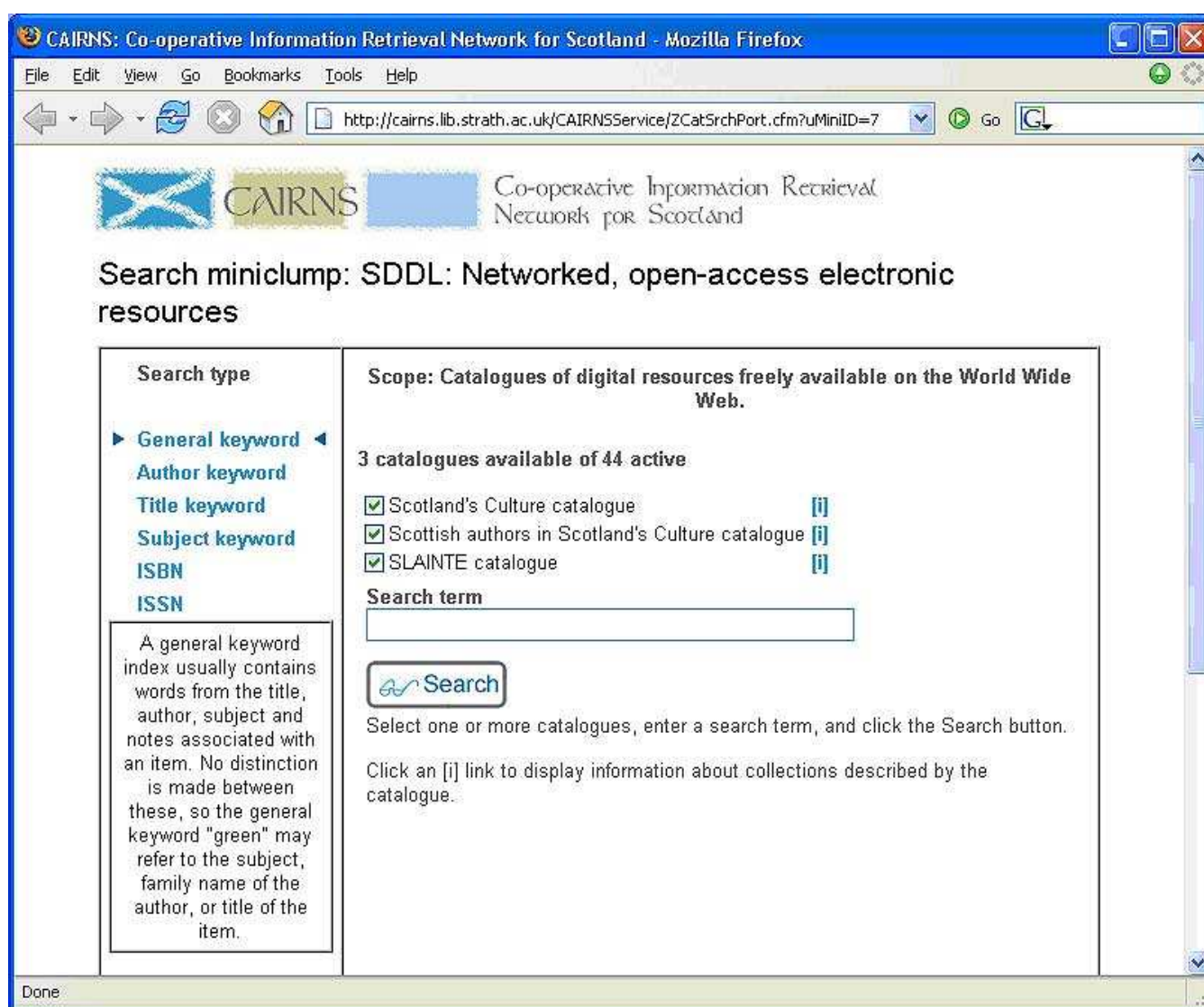
**Screenshot: Some of the 120+ collections in the SDDL.**

The SDDL "Books" section provides a link to electronic texts catalogued in [Scotland's Culture](#), the Scottish cultural portal pilot. These texts range from simple text transcriptions, such as [Project Gutenberg](#) resources, to complete digital facsimiles; all texts are written by Scottish authors or are on Scottish subjects.



**Screenshot:** Some of the 220 electronic texts recorded in Scotland's Culture, accessed from the SDDL. The texts can be downloaded using the hyperlinks.

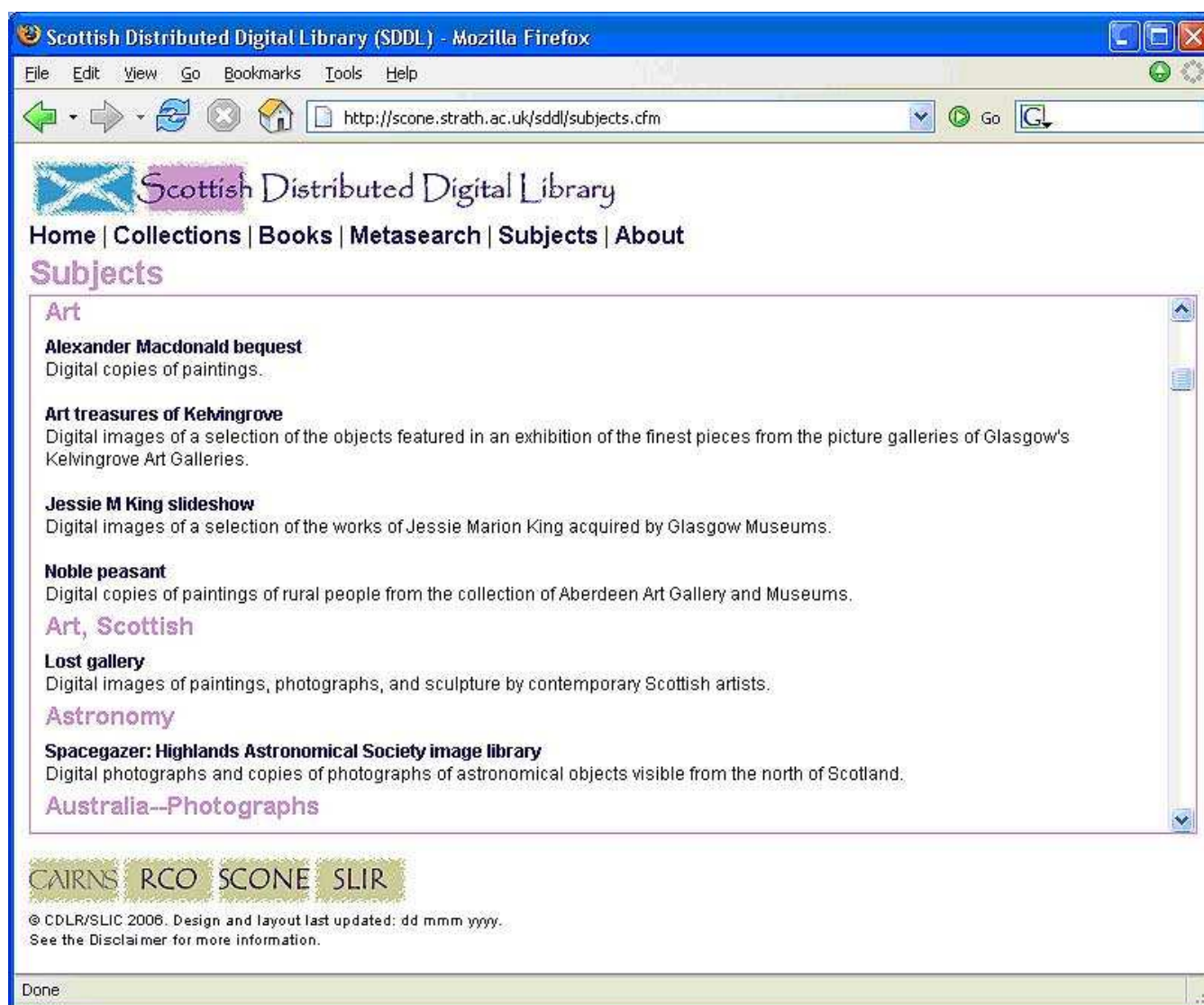
The SDDL "Metasearch" section links to a [CAIRNS](#) "miniclump" of catalogues of Scottish digital resources. The selected catalogues can be searched in one go.



**Screenshot: The CAIRNS miniclump for the SDDL.**

SDDL also provides a subject index to its collections.





**Screenshot: Part of the SDDL subject index. The subject terms are taken from the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH).**

All components of the SDDL are derived from existing information held in Scottish Common Information Environment services.

The service is very much in a pilot stage, and all comments and suggestions are welcome. Any organisation or individual who wishes to add a digital collection or electronic text to the Scottish Distributed Digital Library, or comment on the service, should contact me at [g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk](mailto:g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk)

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